

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Pat McCrory, Governor
Susan Kluttz, Secretary
Kevin Cherry, Deputy Secretary

Office of Archives and History
Division of Historical Resources

July 2, 2015

Karla Rosenberg
Planner
101 City Hall Plaza, Ground Floor
Durham, NC 27701

RE: Landmark Designation Report for the **Wiley & Elizabeth Forbus House, 3307 Devon Road, Durham, Durham County**

Dear Ms. Rosenberg:

Thank you for the report for the above-cited property which is being proposed for landmark designation. We have reviewed the information in the report and offer the following comments in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160A-400.4.

Built in 1933 in the prestigious country club neighborhood of Hope Valley, the Wiley and Elizabeth Forbus house is important as a rare and fully developed example of the Norman Provincial style in Durham. The architect of the house, G. Murray Nelson, and the contractor, George Kane were regionally prominent in their respective fields during the early to mid-twentieth century, and the house, in the quality of its design and construction, represents a major phase of Hope Valley's development.

With these comments in mind, we believe the local governing board now has sufficient information to determine whether or not the Wiley & Elizabeth Forbus House qualifies for local landmark designation.

Landmark designation means the community recognizes a property as an important historic resource worthy of preservation. Any substantial exterior design changes to a designated landmark are subject to the design review procedures of the Durham Historic Preservation Commission. The owner may apply for an annual deferral of fifty percent of the property taxes for as long as the property is designated and retains significance and integrity.

If the local governing board wishes to extend the Commission's design review authority to significant features of the interior, the owner must give written consent. The designation ordinance must specify the features and describe the nature of the Commission's design review authority over them.

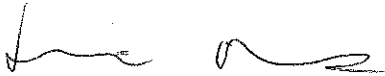
Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the report. Our comments are advisory only and are not binding. Once the governing board has received a recommendation from the Durham Historic Preservation Commission and has proceeded in the same manner as would otherwise be required for an amendment to the zoning ordinance, the governing board may proceed with the designation decision. Once

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the designation decision has been made, please return the completed designation confirmation form, enclosed.

This letter serves as our comments on the proposed landmark designation of the Wiley & Elizabeth Forbus House. Please contact me at 919-807-6575 should you have any questions about our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurie Mitchell', with a stylized, flowing script.

Laurie Mitchell
Local Preservation Commissions / CLG Coordinator

CC: Commission Chair

Enclosure